

Message Text

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44

ACTION NASA-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3059

UNCLAS MOSCOW 11083

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, OCLR, UR, US

SUBJ: CLEARANCE REQUEST FOR NASA AIRCRAFT

REF: STATE 181109

1. EMBASSY AUGUST 6 DELIVERED TO DEPUTY CHIEF FEDOSEYEV, USA DIVISION, MFA, LETTER INFORMING MFA OF FLIGHT PLAN FOR NASA AIRCRAFT, WITH DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT IT WILL UNDERTAKE, AS REQUESTED PER REFTEL.

2. RE PARA 13, REFTEL, NASA PILOT MIGHT WISH CARRY TEXT OF LETTER, AND STATEMENT IN RUSSIAN LANGUAGE TO EFFECT THAT FLIGHT PLANS CLEARED BY EMBASSY THROUGH MFA USA DIVISION, REFERRING ANY QUESTION THAT MIGHT ARISE TO MFA USA DIVISION FOR CONFIRMATION, IN CASE OF EMERGENCY.

3. TEXT OF LETTER FOLLOWS:

MR. K.G. FEDOSEYEV
DEPUTY CHIEF
USA DIVISION
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SMOLENSKAYA-SENNAYA PL. 32/34
MOSCOW, G-200

DEAR MR FEDOSEYEV:

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THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)

PLANS TO OPERATE A NUMBER OF RESEARCH FLIGHTS IN THE ARCTIC DURING THE SECOND HALF OF AUGUST 1975. YOU MAY REMEMBER THAT FIRST SECRETARY ZIMMERMAN OF THIS EMBASSY WROTE TO YOU CONCERNING A PREVIOUS SERIES OF SIMILAR FLIGHTS ON APRIL 2, 1975. AS IN THE SPRING FLIGHTS, NASA INTENDS TO USE A US GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT, A MODEL 990 CONVAIR WITH THE CALL SIGN N712 NA, TO CONDUCT THE AUGUST SERIES.

THREE OF THE RESEARCH FLIGHTS PLANNED WILL BE MADE ENTIRELY OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS, AND THE REMAINING FOUR FLIGHTS INVOLVE LOW-LEVEL SEARCHES FOR MARINE MAMMALS. THESE LATTER FLIGHTS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN IN AN AREA BOUNDED ON THE WEST BY A LINE RUNNING FROM 73 DEGREES 00 MINUTES NORTH 180 DEGREES 00 MINUTES WEST TO 70 DEGREES 00 MINUTES NORTH 180 DEGREES 00 MINUTES WEST TO 60 DEGREES 30 MINUTES NORTH 168 DEGREES 50 MINUTES EST TO 65 DEGREES 00 MINUTES NORTH 173 DEGREES 00 MINUTES EST, TO 64 DEGREES 00 MINUTES NORTH, 175 DEGREES 00 MINUTES WEST, TO 64 DEGREES 00 MINUTES NORTH, 179 DEGREES 00 MINUTES WEST TO 62 DEGREES 00 MINUTES NORTH 179 DEGREES 00 MINUTES WEST.

THE BOUNDARY LINE DESCRIBED ABOVE IS THE EXTREME WESTERN EDGE OF THE POTENTIAL OBSERVATION AREA. DEPENDING ON THE ACTUAL LOCATION OF THE MAMMALS ENCOUNTERED, PRIMARILY WALRUSES, THE AIRCRAFT MAY NOT NEED TO FLY AS FAR WEST AS THE LINE. NO OBSERVATIONS WILL BE TAKEN OVER LAND AREAS, ALTHOUGH IF MAMMALS ARE PRESENT THERE OBSERVATIONS MAY EXTEND FROM THE SEA TOWARD BEACH AREAS.

FLIGHTS FROM FAIRBANKS, ALASKA, WHERE THE AIRCRAFT WILL BE BASED DURING THE OBSERVATION PERIOD, TO THE OBSERVATION AREAS WILL BE MADE AT ALTITUDES OF 31,000 OR 35,000 FEET. MEASUREMENTS WILL BE MADE AT LOW LEVEL, IN GRID PATTERNS AT ALTITUDES OF 1,000 TO 5,000 FEET.

THE RESEARCH PROGRAM SUPPORTED BY THESE FLIGHTS IS PROJECT V-6 OF THE US-USSR AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SIGNED IN 1973. THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT DR. V.A. ZEMSKIY OF THE VSESOUZNIY NAUCHNOISSEDOVATEL'NIY INSTITUT MORSKOGO RYBNOGO KHOZYAISTVA UNCLASSIFIED

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IOKEANOGRAFII IS FAMILIAR WITH THE PROJECT. SINCERELY,
NOBLE M. MELENCAMP, COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY FOR ECON/COMMERICAL
AFFAIRS.
STOESSEL

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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